

REMARKS

Per a telephone interview on August 19, 2003 between Applicants' representative and Examiner Lau, it was agreed that Applicants file a request for continued examination including an amendment to amend claims 11-12 and 24. During the interview, Examiner Lau informed Applicants' representative that claims 11-14, 15-17, 23 and 24 would be allowable if claims 11-12 and 24 were amended per the Examiner's recommendations. Claims 11, 12, and 24 are hereby amended. Claims 13 and 14 have been amended to correct a minor grammatical error. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

CONCLUSION

Applicants assert that the claims are all fully in condition for allowance. Thus, allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.


If the Examiner identifies further issues that may be resolved by telephone, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 1.865.546.4305.

In the event that this response is not timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension, along with any other fees that may be due with respect to this response, may be charged to our deposit account number 12-2355.

Sincerely,

LUEDEKA, NEELY & GRAHAM, P.C.

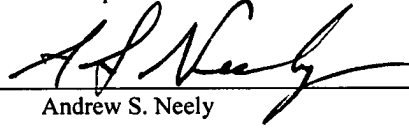
By:


Andrew S. Neely
Reg. No. 28,979

Date: 2/12/04
P.O. Box 1871
Knoxville TN 37901
1.865.546.4305

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on the date below with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date 2/12/04


Andrew S. Neely

F:\53199\53199.RCE PRELIM AMD .doc